

Bangor Daily News

CITY

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The Weather

Fair, hot, humid

Full Report on Page 2

Apollo Takes Unerring Aim At Moon

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Three men wearing American flags in their left sleeves rocketed away from earth Wednesday, July 16, 1969, to take mankind's most daring step into the unknown, a walk on the moon.

From some 60,000 miles out, the astronauts beamed back color or television pictures of earth, catching the blue-green disc over the Pacific Ocean.

It was the second try by civilian Neil A. Armstrong, Jr. and Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Collins to capture a television view for earthmen. The first try failed because of antenna trouble on earth.

"Hey, Houston," Buzz Aldrin called down. "You s--- pose you could turn the earth a little bit more than just water?"

"Roger," 11," acknowledged mission control. "I don't think we've got much control over that. Looks like you'll have

to settle for water."

Armstrong provided the brief narrative for the 15-minute TV show, which was received at the Goldstone Tracking Station in California and taped for later relay to Houston.

"We're seeing the center of the earth as viewed from the spacecraft," Armstrong said, "and the eastern Pacific Ocean."

"We have not been able to visually pick up the Hawaiian Island chain but we can clearly see the western coast of North America, the United States, the San Joaquin Valley, the high Sierras, Baja California, and Mexico as far down as Acapulco, and the Yucatan Peninsula, and you can see all through Central America to the northeast coast of South America, Venezuela and Columbia. Not sure you'll be able to see all that on your screens down there."

The television show came less than 12 hours after launch. The dunes nearly over. The major maneuvers went off without a

hitch. They astronauts were ahead of the flight plan, and mission control gave them permission to sleep two hours early—about 9 p.m.

From the minute they blasted off from Cape Kennedy, Fla., at 9:32 a.m. (EDT)—a shade over half a second later—their troubles were all small.

One of them was the first bulky televi—transmission.

On the other hand, the course of Apollo 11 was so accurate that a planned correcting maneuver was skipped.

By launch time more than a million people had flocked to the beaches around Cape Kennedy. Television via satellite and ground relay beamed the launch to an estimated 328 million people in at least 133 nations.

His confidence buoyed by the smoothness of the flight, President Nixon urged all Americans to make Monday a holiday so they could watch the first men walk on the moon in the early hours of that day. His announce-

ment came with the flight barely six hours old.

"In past ages exploration was a lonely enterprise," he said.

"But today, the miracles of space travel are matched by the miracles of space communications, even across the vast lunar distance, television brings the moment of discovery into our homes, and makes all of us participants."

Discovery could come sooner for a Soviet spaceship Luna 15, unmanned, and with the barest of information available on its mission, was nearing the moon.

Britain's Jodrell Bank Radio Observatory reported a burst of signals from the Soviet spaceship just before Apollo 11 soared into space. Some believe Luna 15 is in soft land, scoop up lunar soil, and bring it back to earth.

Everything was perfect for Apollo 11, after a confusion that was always on or ahead of schedule. Two and-a-half hours after launch a ginal rocket burn broke the grip of earth's gravity

and sent Armstrong, Aldrin and Collins toward the waxing crescent moon, a scant 100 hours away.

"You're on your way now," announced mission control.

An hour and a half later the astronauts disengaged from their launch rocket, docked with the lunar lander, zipped inside the rocket's hull and latched it, ready for the long coast to the moon.

Radio commands from the ground sent the now useless third stage of Saturn 5 into a long orbit around the sun, to get it out of the way.

Below them, the astronauts had a shinking view of earth. Said spacecraft commander Armstrong, "Out my window right now I can observe the entire continent of North America, Alaska over the pole down to the Yucatan Peninsula, Cuba, the northern part of South America, and then I run out of window."

He also beamed a weather re-

port earthward. Clear over most of the United States, except for a cloudy front moving across the center of the nation clear over the Greenland ice-cap.

"I don't know what I was looking at," chuckled Mike Collins at the other window, "but the view was pretty good."

After their major maneuvers, the astronauts concentrated on navigating by the stars, picking out their pure light in the blackness of space. Then came an eating period, a series of routine tests, and another meal, culminating in a nine-hour rest period.

The only trace of worry came with a faulty indicator light on the spacecraft control panel. A check of systems straightened it out. Flight controllers said there were a number of malfunctions they called "fuzzies" that would be chased down during the night.

The crew was concerned slightly because they had used

more maneuvering fuel than expected. Mission control said to forget it, it was no problem.

Meanwhile, Apollo 11 was moonward, headed at some 3,600 miles an hour. It will slow gradually as its momentum is nibbled away by earth gravity, but then it will increase again as the spacecraft goes over the gravity hill and falls into the spell of the moon.

The clear attitude in the spacecraft contrasted with the thrills the flight created around the world.

Their voices were quiet, almost flat, clicking off mechanically the details of blast-off and flight. Their heartbeats, recorded on earth, were less excited than on their earlier space jaunts.

Parked temporarily in earth orbit, they switched couches from launch positions to flight positions. Collins taking the right-hand seat which Aldrin had occupied.

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)

World Focus On Three Men

By GORDON F. JOSELOFF

United Press International

From Bogota to Bangkok Saigon to Bucharest, the world Wednesday excitedly followed the Apollo 11 liftoff. For the most part there were unreserved hopes. There were some regrets.

"Estupendo!" shouted a Spanish television announcer. "Altogether Americans," a Soviet university professor telephoned to a U.S. correspondent in Moscow.

"The future has commenced," headlined a Bogota newspaper.

"I am so excited, I am still trembling," said Bogota Secretary. A 31-year-old Yugoslav school teacher.

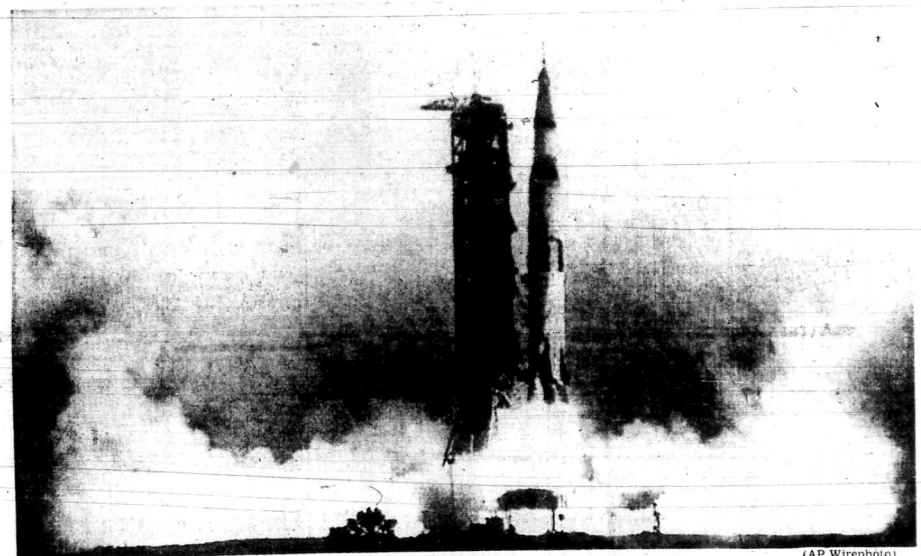
An Apollo button summed up the feeling of many East Europeans.

"We Poles are as excited as everyone. We hoped all the time that the Americans would land the first man on the moon."

Pope Paul VI, addressing his weekly audience at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, hailed the U.S. moon mission as "a very bold enterprise" and wished the three astronauts success.

Vienna office workers left their desks at mid-afternoon to watch the blastoff on television windows of appliance stores. The scene was repeated in

(Continued on Page 2, Col. 1)



(AP Wirephoto)

A Blast Of Flame And They're On Their Way

'God Bless Them, God Bless Them'

Hundreds Of Thousands Watch

By BERNARD WEINBAUR

(U.S. News Wirephoto)

COCOA BEACH — Hundreds of thousands of tourists stood in silent awe Wednesday and watched the Apollo 11 spacecraft rise in a fury of flame and streak across the pale blue sky in man's first journey to the moon.

As the 365-foot vehicle ignited and thundered toward the sky, stunned quiet gripped the eight-

mile-long beach, the highways near Titusville, the jeties of Cape Canaveral and the parks and television sets of Merritt Island.

"I'm shaky, I'm fearful," whispered Mrs. John Vow, the wife of a Jacksonville, Fla., stockbroker who arrived at 4 a.m. Wednesday morning to watch the launch from a crowded jetty 15 miles south of launch pad 39-A. "It's the beginning

of a new era in the life of man."

On Cocoa Beach, five miles away, Mrs. Lee Fornica, a Connecticut school teacher, stood on the hot sunny beach and watched the rocket out of sight, leaving a white fluffy vapor-trail. "Everyone is so quiet," she said, with the shimmering ocean breaking into surf several feet away. "Some of them just whisper,

"God bless them, God bless them."

An estimated 750,000 to one million persons witnessed the launching at 9:32 Wednesday morning, swarming into Brevard County through a chaotic night of parties, traffic tups, whirling police sirens, packed restaurants, and the steady drone of helicopters that bounced onto the hard sand beach carrying Ambassadors, Congressmen and businessmen. Wednesday's turnout was the largest in history to witness a space launch.

The two most prominent guests at the launch were Vice President Agnew and former President Johnson who sat on the sun-drenched bleachers at the Cape Kennedy Space Center, together with 500 other VIP's.

Speak Informally

Both men spoke informally of the space effort. Agnew proposed a new American space goal of a flight to Mars. "Someone is going to do it," he observed. "I think we shouldn't be too timid to say by the end of this century we are going to put a man on Mars."

Former President Johnson, who served on space committees for years as Senator and Vice President, said the moon flight followed decisions reached only 12 years ago. "If we can do that in such a short time, I wonder why we can't put the same effort into peace for all time," he said.

Traffic Backs Up

Following the launch, Agnew and Johnson flew by helicopter for the 15-minute ride to Patrick Air Force Base and their departures. Several military planes, other dignitaries were almost immediately engaged in traffic jams on the roads outside the

Yea, Verily, It'll Be Not Again Today

In spite of the deluge over the weekend which had several NEWS staffers drawing up plans for an ark, many people are happy over the chance of thunderstorms predicted for some parts of the state.

While mainlanders sheltered in heat up to unofficial reports of 100 degrees, Gov. Kenneth M. Curtis had the right idea, as he and members of his executive council and state house newsmen enjoyed ocean breezes while sitting on Pensacola Bay in Bangor, the temperature

(Cont. on Page 20, Col. 5)

Moscow Silent On Its Luna

By BERNARD GWERTZMAN

(U.S. News Wirephoto)

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union Wednesday reported promptly to the Russian people on the successful launching of Apollo 11 but maintained silence for the third consecutive day on its own unmanned spacecraft, Luna 15, which also is heading for the moon.

All radio and television sta-

tions gave factual accounts of the Apollo 11 blastoff and the main television news show at 8:30 p.m. Moscow time, four hours after the launching, showed about five minutes of tape of the actual liftoff at Cape Kennedy.

The viewers were promised that additional taped segments would be provided at other points in the Apollo flight. The tape was taken from the live coverage provided to all of Europe via communications satellite.

But the drama of the liftoff was lacking since the Soviet media, as is customary even with Soviet space ventures, did not provide a live pickup.

Much more was disclosed about the Apollo 11 mission than has been in the public about the unmanned Luna flight which should now be nearing the moon, more than three days after its launching on Sunday.

Nothing has been said officially since the original, Tass, communication which reported that Luna 15 would do research of the moon and the space near

Since then speculation has been rife here. It ranges from the conservative view that Luna 15 merely is an attempt to orbit the moon and return to earth, something no previous Luna spaceship has done — to the belief that Luna 15 is designed to land on the moon, scoop up rock, and return to earth aboard of the manned Apollo 11, a goal to reduce the impact of Apollo 11 on world and Soviet public opinion.

Tass, the official Soviet press agency, has distributed a rather long account of Apollo 11 which is being read over radio and television.

It gives the details of the mission and concludes with a biography of each of the three astronauts whom Tass called "these brave men."

Many Russians, who undoubtedly believed their country would be first to land a man on the moon, have wished Americans well on the mission. No bitterness has been observed among Russians, whose late



"I CAN SEE IT!" — All eyes are on Kennedy as the rocket went off on the Saturn 5 rocket as it thunders aloft. (AP Wirephoto)

Today's Features

Amusements	8
Auto/Car	29
Classified	29, 30, 31, 32, 33
Comics	35
Community	11, 22
Editorials	16, 17
Financial	28, 29
Main Street	4
Obituaries	18
Radio-TV	24
Entire	24, 25, 26, 27